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Solar Decathlon Design Presentation And Simulation Results Announced

Second Round Goes to Virginia Tech

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University took first place in the Design Presentation and Simulation Contest at the Solar Village on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. today. Carnegie Mellon University placed second and the University of Maryland placed third.

With today's contest results, and results from ongoing contests, the overall standings puts the University of Colorado at Boulder in first, the University of Virginia in second, and Virginia Tech in third.

Design Presentation and Simulation is one of ten contests in the Solar Decathlon, which runs through Oct. 5, and carries a maximum weight of 100 in the overall point score. Competing teams are also amassing points in other aspects of the competition. The Design and Livability judging results were announced Sunday, and the teams are being judged continuously on several aspects of the performance of their houses.

The total points possible for the ten contests in the Solar Decathlon is 1,100 points. To win, a team must blend aesthetics and modern conveniences with maximum energy production and efficiency.

For the Solar Decathlon, the solar decathletes had to figure ways to harness the power of the sun to supply all the energy for an entire household, including a home-based business, along with the transportation needs of the household and business. Each house, limited to roughly 500 square feet for purposes of the competition, is being judged on 10 criteria to determine which most efficiently employs solar energy for heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, appliances, computers and charging an electric car. Experts from DOE and NREL are measuring each home's energy production and use.

The Solar Decathlon is open to the public. Exhibits with information on each team's home, the contest and renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are adjacent to the Solar Decathlon village on the Mall between 4th Street and 7th Street and between the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and the west building of the National Gallery of Art. **For more on the Solar Decathlon, see <http://www.solardecathlon.org>**

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